

THE HILL-HIGGINS CASE

Full Text of Coroner Phelan's Finding Absolving Hill.

The undersigned, John J. Phelan, coroner, having notice of the death of George W. Higgins, a white male, 47 years old, late of the town of Danbury, Conn., on the 28th day of April, A. D. 1915, died a sudden, violent, untimely death, at No. 50 White street, in the town of Danbury, having made immediate inquiry concerning his death, do hereby certify that said George W. Higgins died in Danbury on the 28th day of April, A. D. 1915, from hemorrhage on the severing of the common carotid artery.

Upon investigation it was shown that the deceased who had been on a periodical spree for some days, met one Joseph S. Hill, of Redding, Conn., in the neighborhood of the liquor store or saloon of Abraham Vogel on Iron street, Danbury, on the date named. Both went into the room and parlor of six or seven glasses of beer each during the afternoon and evening of that day. It was also shown that the deceased was detected by a passerby, one Hoffman, in having his hand in the pocket of Hill, about 7:40 p. m., of the day named, in the vicinity of the street door of such saloon and that when chided by Hoffman for stealing, the latter, who had invited Hill into the saloon for "another drink." Thereafter, according to the evidence of Hill, the latter and deceased, returned to the latter's room about 11 p. m., at No. 50 White street for the purpose of spending the night there. This room was one of two adjoining rooms in the rear of the building, with a door opening from one to the other, rented by the deceased and one William Valley jointly for five dollars per month. Each room, poorly furnished, contained a single cot bed. There was a heating stove in one of the rooms. It appeared from the testimony of Valley that the deceased and Hill were in the room named, and that Hill, Valley, told obliged to and did leave the said adjoining room to seek the comfort of sleep elsewhere. He did this because of the boisterous and indecent language of Hill and the deceased, and the vile names and dangerous bodily threatenings each made to the other. After Valley left the room, the testimony of Hill shows that the latter, after a light slumber on the cot assigned him by the deceased, became aware of the deceased lying on the cot with him and of his feeling the hand of the deceased in his (Hill's) pocket, then, containing about seventy cents in silver and other coin. At this Hill demanded to know what the deceased meant and at once grasped the arm of the deceased, when a struggle began that resulted in the breaking down to the floor of the head part of the cot; that the struggle continued thereafter on the floor of the room, each calling the other mean, vile names, and each threatening to kill the other; that the deceased attempted but failed to push a walking cane belonging to Hill, down the throat of the latter; that each was alternately on top of the other on the floor holding each other's hands, arms or throat at successive intervals; that Hill, at twenty-five, in the belief that the deceased, aged forty-seven, was endeavoring to kill him, upon failing to obtain response to his loud calling of "Help," in desperation to protect his life, drew with his then plumed right arm, a pocket knife from his trouser's pocket, opened its blade with his teeth and plunged such blade into the neck of the deceased, while the latter lay on the floor struggling for mastery with Hill, and thus severed as to cut the common carotid artery; that the deceased died within the hour. Hill's testimony further showed that he at once left the room and notified the police what happened between himself and the deceased in manner form and substantially as above.

It was also shown by the testimony of one Anna Sullivan, a tenant at No. 50 White street; William Valley, William Pugsley, George Howard, together with Police Officers Henry and Turner of the Danbury police department, that each heard the shouting and the struggle and appeals of Hill for help and police, as well as Hill's cries and screamings of distress.

They further testified that such struggling, appeals and cries were continued at intervals for a period variously estimated at from five to thirty minutes, as determined mainly by the proximity of each to the scene of action.

There was no testimony heard derogatory to the generally fair reputation of the deceased, except as to striking to excess at times, as showing him to be violent, quarrelsome, or given to thievery, or any similar testimony reflecting upon the general reputation of Hill, or that either had any unlawful designs upon the person or property of the other when they first met at Vogel's saloon. I am reasonably convinced from the testimony however, that the deceased was in a state of intoxication and because of it, probably assumed Hill to have money on his person, and attempted to help himself to it in part or whole as stated by Hoffman and Hill, and that the attempt to do so in the room of the deceased culminated in the quarrel and homicide. I am also reasonably convinced from the testimony that there was a prolonged and desperate struggle between both men in said room, and that Hill from his appeals and cries for help as shown, fully believed, and had no other motive, but that life was in danger at the hands of the deceased, and that to save it he had a lawful right to kill the deceased to protect himself from death or great bodily injury.

I, therefore, find the deceased came to his death at the time, place and from the cause shown by said Joseph Hill in defense of his proper person from death or great bodily injury at the hands of the deceased. In accordance with the statute the body of said deceased was delivered to his friends for burial in Danbury.

Dated at Bridgeport, this 6th day of May, A. D. 1915.

JOHN J. PHELAN,
Coroner.

DETROIT WILL TALK ON COMMISSION GOVERNMENT.

The Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce and others who desire to see a commission form of government discussed will be able to do so Wednesday evening when Lucius B. Wilson, former secretary of the Board of Commerce of Detroit, will lecture in the Newfield building.

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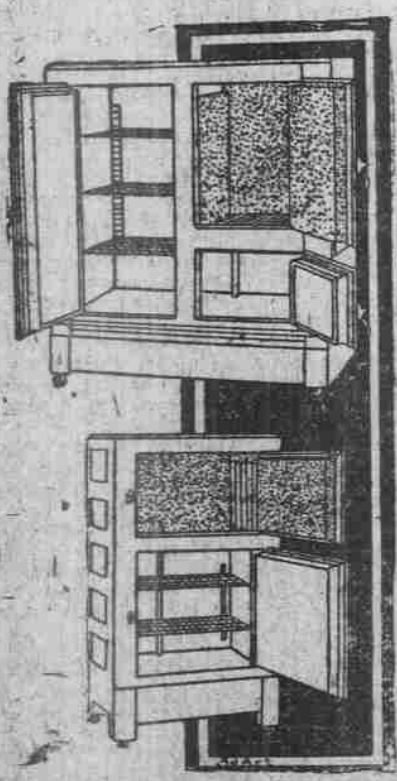
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IMPORTANT RUG SPECIALS
Positively for this week only as follows: 9x13 Velvet Rug of \$18 VALUE FOR \$13.50; also Extra Heavy Seamless Wilton Velvet Rug of \$35 VALUE FOR \$21.48. An opportunity to secure floor coverings at less than wholesale prices which, due to the scarcity of wool and dyes, are greatly on the increase.

MORE VERMIS MARTIN TABLES
Another shipment of Vermiss Martin and Rockwood parlor tables, the same styles which made such a tremendous hit in the sale a few weeks ago. Don't miss them this time. Beautifully decorated art top and values up to \$3.00—SPECIAL AT \$2.15, \$2.48 and \$2.75.

EXTRA HEAVY LINOLEUMS
50c value at 35c.

LADIES OF CHARITY WILL HAVE TRIPLE FETE ON SATURDAY

Annual Tea, Opening of Nurses' Home, and Donation Day All in One.

On Saturday, May 15, a triple festivity will be held at the new nurses' home of St. Vincent's hospital which will combine the celebration of the opening of the home, the annual tea of the Ladies of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul and donation day when gifts of linen and so forth will be most gratefully received. Hundreds of cards have been issued and it is expected that the tea and musicale will be one of the most elaborate and enjoyable affairs to be held here this spring.

The chief interest of the afternoon will be the viewing of the handsome new building of which the members of the hospital and general public are most justly proud.

Splendid talent has been secured for the musicale which will start promptly at 4 o'clock. Among the participants in the program will be Gwyllyn Miles, soloist; Miss Grace Dwyll, pianist; Miss Clara Hayes, contralto; Miss Laura Frances Quinn, danseuse and Earl William Smith, a Boston pianist.

Six high school students who will assist the guests about the building will be Edward Casey, John Hurley, Raymond Levery, Thomas McNamara, Russell Weldon, John Allen.

The four daintily gowned young girls who will distribute the baskets from heribonned wicker baskets are the Misses Dorothy McElroy, Mary Lalley, Mary and Cella Allen.

The tea-tables will be placed in the parlors and living rooms and presiding over them will be Mrs. Thomas Walsh, assisted by Mrs. James Rourke, Mrs. Dennis Keller, Mrs. Vincent Levery and Mrs. Charles Ogren. Mrs. James Lawlor and several other members of the Elizabeth Seton guild at another, the helpers being Mrs. Andrew McQueney, Mrs. Philip McLaughlin and Miss Catherine Curran; Mrs. Mary Leonard O'Connor will be hostess at another and will have as co-workers Mrs. Geo. T. McCarthy, Mrs. P. J. Lynch, Mrs. Lawrence T. Gallagher and Miss Anne Dennis; at the other tables will be Mrs. James Butler, Mrs. Thomas C. Coughlin, Mrs. J. A. Kelly, Leonard O'Connor, Mrs. Mary Joseph O'Brien, Miss Anne Dennis, vice presidents; Mrs. John McElroy, financial secretary; Mrs. J. Murray Johnson, recording secretary; Miss Mary Sullivan, treasurer; Miss Mary Walsh, assistant financial secretary; Mrs. David Osborne, assistant recording secretary; Mrs. Thomas McMullen, dispenser. The directors are Miss Frances Arnold and Mrs. T. Leo Lalley, who have St. Augustine's parish under their charge; Mrs. J. A. Hurley and Mrs. Peter Doonan, of Sacred Heart; Mrs. Mary Leonard O'Connor, Mrs. William Hickey, St. Mary's; Mrs. Frederick Holste and Miss Mary Brady, St. Patrick's; Mrs. James Lynch, Mrs. Frank E. Lalley,

OUR NEWTOWN NEWS LETTER

(Special to The Farmer.)

Newtown, May 11.—Tax Collector John F. Houlihan will be at the office of the Newtown Grain and Coal company for the collection of town and personal taxes every business day this month, except on the last Saturday when he will be at the town clerk's office for the accommodation of taxpayers.

A party of high school misses and friends, the Misses Aileen and Alice Houlihan, Florence Sheehan, Mabel Anderson, Susie Cavanaugh, Margaret White, Agnes Glover, Millicent Cavanaugh, Mary Keane, Anna May Corbett, Marguerite Bradley, Christine Corbett, Mary Clark, Mildred Corbett, Catharine Kelly and Hannah Corbett, enjoyed an outing and picnic in the woods of Popponess Hollow, Currituck, Saturday afternoon. Their pleasure was greatly enhanced by the presence of Miss Helen Houlihan, the popular teacher of languages in the high school.

The friends of athletics in the town turned out in large numbers last night in the town hall to enjoy a very satisfactory program of vaudeville, athletic feats, moving pictures and dancing presented for the benefit of the Independent baseball line of the high school. A good sum was realized.

E. W. Troy and John F. Maloney, delegates of Virgilian council, K. C. C. went to Hartford last night to attend the state convention.

Francis Kilbride is representing Court Sandy Hook, F. of A., at the Foresters' convention in Bridgeport.

Mrs. John Stilson has removed to Waterbury.

The regular meeting of Postatuck grange will be held tonight and a full attendance of members is requested, as important business will come up.

A novena to the Holy Ghost will open at St. Rose's church, Friday of this week.

M. F. Brennan of Hawleyville will represent Putnam council, K. of C., at Hartford this week.

Fred Schwartz has moved his family to Bridgeport where he has secured a position.

Mrs. Paul Morrow of Botsford is a guest of her mother, Mrs. Ralph Whitlock, of Gas street, this week.

Miss Elizabeth Faulkner, who has resided in Newtown for over a year, has returned to her home in New Haven.

The Fairfield County Pomona grange which had been appointed at Easton

for June 2 has been postponed until June 9.

Mother's Day was observed at the churches on Sunday. The churches were appropriately decorated.

Mrs. Charles Sherman of New Haven has spent a few days as the guest of her mother, Mrs. Edson Hayes.

Mrs. and Mrs. C. B. Osborne entertained motor guests from Brookfield, Sunday.

Mrs. Parnela Wheeler and Mrs. Eliza Winton, who have spent the winter in Springfield, have opened their home here for the summer.

The funeral of Miss Frances French was held at the home of her brother, Wilbur French, Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Miss French, who was 70 years of age, had been ill for several weeks suffering with a severe case of blood poisoning. She died on the afternoon of May 5. Miss French was an active member of the Methodist church. She is survived by a brother, Wilbur French, with whom she made her home, and several nieces and nephews. The interment was in the local cemetery. Rev. William Poter officiated at the services.

The minstrel show was not held at the church parlors Friday evening. It has not been announced yet whether or not it will be given at a future date.

LADIES OF CHARITY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TOMORROW FOR TEA

Final arrangements for the annual tea of the Ladies of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul will be made at the monthly meeting of the organization at St. Vincent's hospital tomorrow afternoon. The tea will take place Saturday afternoon.

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